

House Republican Press Release

December 1, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Reps Farr, Witkos: Avon School Board Chair Appointed to Governor's Commission on Education Finance



House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward, R-86th District, has appointed Avon Board of Education Chair Peggy Roell to the Governor's Commission on Education Finance, which will consider possible changes to the state's Education Cost Sharing formula, state Representatives Bob Farr, R-19th District, and Kevin D.

Witkos, R-17th District, announced today.

The ECS formula, which is used to calculate the amount of annual education aid provided to Connecticut municipalities, has been the primary distribution system for education funding since the state Supreme Court's Horton vs Meskill decision in the 1970's. Since being put in place, the state legislature has changed it almost every year, often in ways that have increased the share of education aid provided to the state's big cities and shortchanged suburban and rural communities, said Representatives Farr and Witkos, who recommended Mrs. Roell to Representative Ward for the appointment.

"I'm looking forward to working with the commission to explore various options on how best to balance the costs of education with the effects constantly-increasing property taxes have on residents of every community throughout the state," said Mrs. Roell, who has a B. B. A. degree in accounting and finance from the University of Wisconsin School of Business.

"I'd like to thank Bob Ward for appointing Peggy Roell to this important panel," Representative Farr said. "Her background and experience as Avon's Board of Education chair make her uniquely well-qualified to serve on this commission. She understands the special needs of suburban school districts and will work to bring about changes in the ECS formula that will enable all Connecticut municipalities to receive their fair share of state education aid."

"Mrs. Roell is uniquely qualified and experienced to provide insight and guidance to this commission," Representative Witkos said. "She has an outstanding record of public service and a firm grasp on the questions that will come before the commission for consideration."

“I hope that your service in this position will be challenging and satisfying. I know that the talent and expertise you bring to it will be of great value and service to our state and its citizens,” Representative Ward said in his letter to Mrs. Rell informing her of the appointment. “On behalf of the people of Connecticut, please accept my thanks for your willingness to accept the challenge of public service and my congratulations on your appointment to this important post.”